

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed October 18, 2007. By this paper, claims 1-16 are currently pending. Independent claims 1, 4 and 8 have been amended.

35 U.S.C. §112 Matters

In the Office Action, claims 1-16 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner indicates that independent claims 1 and 8 and their dependent claims are indefinite because: the X and Y directions are not clearly defined in relationship to the mold cavity walls or the shape of the automotive part; the location of the tangent line and the forward boundary are not clearly defined and the movement of the female member is defined inconsistently when comparing Fig. 3A and claim 4.

Regarding the Examiner's first contention that the X and Y directions are not clearly defined, Applicant respectfully points to Figs. 3 and 4, which show a XYZ coordinate system in relation to the mold cavity walls and the shape of the automotive part. Further, claim 1, subportion (a) clearly refers to the X, Y, Z limitations, explains each with regard to lengthwise, horizontal, and vertical directions and indicates that each of X, Y, and Z is perpendicularly oriented with respect to the other directions. Claim 4 incorporates the X, Y, Z limitations set forth in claim 1 and independent claim 8 describes these directions in similar fashion to the limitations therefor set forth in claim 1.

Regarding the Examiner's second contention that the location of the tangent line and forward boundary are not clearly defined, Applicant respectfully points to paragraph 31 and Fig. 3A of the published application, which describe and show the locations of the forward boundary denoted by number 322 and rear boundary denoted by number 352. Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the forward boundary of the sloped bottom wall defines a junction of the sloped bottom wall and the major surface cavity. Support for this amendment can be seen especially in figures 3 and 3A wherein forward boundary 322 is seen at the junction between the major surface cavity 180 and the bottom wall 320. Support may

also be gleaned at page 8, lines 2 and in paragraph 29 of the specification. Note also that claim 8 indicates that the forward boundary is contiguous to the major surface.

With regard to the Examiner's comment pertaining to claim 4 and its reference to movement of the female member away from the male member along the Y direction, the claim has been amended to indicate that the line that extends in the Y direction is also parallel to the tangent line. The Examiner is thanked for noting this potential ambiguity. It is thought that paragraphs 9 and 30-32 of the specification are consistent in defining the directional movement of the female member. Paragraph 33 of the specification has been amended for consistency to remove any potential ambiguity. For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the solicited claims are free from any Section 112 based defects. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph rejection of claims 1-16 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Matters

Claim 1 in the application stands rejected as being unpatentable over Hardgrove et al. (U.S. Patent 6,592,173). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Independent claims 1 and 8 have been both amended to indicate that the bottom sloped wall 320 is substantially linear. This can be clearly seen in figures 3 and 3A and can be readily inferred from mention throughout the specification of the inclined disposition of the bottom wall. (See for example paragraphs 8, 29, etc.).

Hardgrove et al. disclose a method for making fused film-plastic parts and parts. The paint film covered parts include a show surface section with a paint film laminate overlying the plastic substrate of this section of the part to provide the desired aesthetic appeal. An attachment flange section of the part is provided and is usually hidden from sight when the part is assembled to the auto or truck body structure. The flange serves as a location at which clamps, bolts, rivets or the like can support or attach to the auto or truck structure. A raised portion, such as a boss section, is provided intermediate the show surface section and the attachment flange. This boss is adapted for contiguous or closed spaced positioning adjacent the auto or truck structural part. The boss is completely covered by the paint film with the paint film terminating along the attachment flange. The boss section could also be said to be a

nadir and is of a parabolic shape with a constantly varying slope angle in sharp contrast to the instant claims which, as amended, all require a substantially linear sloped bottom wall.

Additionally, with regard to figure 4 of Hardgrove et al., female mold member 42 would have to be withdrawn at an angle of 0° (parallel to the straight lines forming the boundary for sprue 46) otherwise the film 8 would be scraped in the part ejection sequence. This stands in contrast to the claimed movement of the female mold member as set forth in claim 4 that requires female mold part movement that is in the Y direction at the claimed 1-20° angle relative to a line that extends in the Y direction and which line is also parallel to the tangent line 350.

The other references relied upon by the Examiner do not remedy the above shortcomings of Hardgrove et al. '173. Neither Yamamoto '742 or Hirose '543 teach a substantially linear sloped bottom wall as set forth in all claims or the specific female mold part movement as set forth in instant claim 4.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks made herein, Applicant submits that the claims presented are patentably distinguishable from the art applied and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner determine that anything else is desirable to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,
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